

Coplestone Primary School Newsletter

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Edition 79

15th September 2023

Message from Head of School:

A very warm welcome back to all our children and families. We have had a very smooth start to the school year, with all the new children already settled and enjoying the school day. It has been lovely to see the enthusiasm the children have shown towards their learning, especially in reading. We have implemented a new 'reading team' of Teaching Assistants, and they are already in full swing, moving from class to class for short bursts of reading practice. We also welcome a new teacher - Miss Rhianna Webber who is mainly teaching in key stage 2, but also doing some cover teaching in other classes. She is also running an after school French Club for Key Stage 2, so please encourage your children to join in with that. We are lucky to have a wide range of after school and lunchtime clubs this year, and we hope the children gain a lot from that extra curricular enrichment.

The library refurbishment is now finished and the children are enjoying using the inviting space. Thanks to Tesco for some grant funding, the village lunch club for a donation, and you all for your support in fundraising during book week!

We also have a wonderful new outdoor gym installed and we will be opening that up as soon as the skip is removed and the area is ready. Thanks to the Trustees of the WPA Benevolent Foundation, we were able to have generous financial support for this project, without which we could not have managed to afford it. They have been immensely supportive of our project and are very keen to support children and young people in their health and wellbeing.



Congratulations to the many children who participated in the Crediton Library Summer Reading Challenge. We are proud of all who took part, and hope that they enjoyed the books they chose. I have not been told yet where we came on the leader board, but that doesn't matter – as it is the taking part and reading books which matters!

Thank you for coming in to meet the teachers at the various sessions they have held. You should also have received information about the topics and activities ahead in the recent communication on Parent Mail. Please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher if you have any questions.

Finally, this will be my last fortnightly newsletter as we will be moving to a monthly publication going forward. As you already receive so much information via Class Dojo, by the time you get the newsletter it is often behind the news! The new website also has the calendar feature, so we will upload dates there for you - <https://www.coplestone-primary.devon.sch.uk/>

Thank you for your continued support.
Mrs Mackey



Spotlight:
Our new Rainbow Class! Welcome to school



Certificate Winners and Hot Chocolate Awards

Certificate Winners – 15th September 2023

Confidence - Whole of Rainbow Class

Confidence - Olly - Green Class

Challenge - Emma - Yellow Class

Confidence - Louie - Blue Class

Community - Freddie - Orange Class

Community - Anya - Red Class

Challenge - William D - Purple Class

Hot Chocolate Awards – 15th September 2023

Rainbow Class – Finley

Green Class – Arlo

Yellow Class – Ruby

Blue Class – Enzo

Orange Class – Sophia

Red Class – Joshua

Purple Class – Summer



This week our whole school attendance is 99.2%

Pre-School:

The children have all enjoyed their first full week at Pre-School. We have welcomed 8 new children and they have settled in very well. They have enjoyed playing in the Pre-School garden on the trikes and scooters and have been making lots of cakes in the 'mud kitchen'.



The children have also enjoyed making creations with playdough using different cutters, rolling pins and other utensils and we have been painting, colouring and junk modelling.

At Carpet Time the children have been practising counting to 5 and singing action songs.

Today we went into the Forest with Mr Hagan and Reception Class and had a great time exploring.

September 2023

18th 3pm Rainbow Class Meet the Teacher
18th 3.30-4.15pm KS2 ICT After School Club – First Group
19th 3.30-4.15pm KS2 French After School Club
19th 3.30-4.15pm Art After School Club – First Group
21st 3.30-4.15pm Clay After School Club – First Group
22nd 9.10am Celebration Assembly
25th 2pm CPTA AGM in The Studio Building
25th 3.30-4.15pm KS2 ICT After School Club – First Group
26th 3.30-4.15pm KS2 French After School Club
26th 3.30-4.15pm Art After School Club – First Group
28th 3.30-4.15pm Clay After School Club – First Group
29th 9.10am Celebration Assembly

October 2023

2nd 3.30-4.15pm KS2 ICT After School Club – First Group
3rd 3.30-4.15pm KS2 French After School Club
3rd 3.30-4.15pm Art After School Club – First Group
4th Orange Class Trip to RAMM Exeter – details to follow
5th 3.30-4.15pm Clay After School Club – First Group
6th 9.10am Celebration Assembly
9th HARVEST WEEK begins
9th 3.30-4.15pm KS2 ICT After School Club – First Group
10th 3.30-4.15pm KS2 French After School Club
10th 3.30-4.15pm Art After School Club – First Group
11th Grandparents Tea Party – details to follow
12th 3.30-4.15pm Clay After School Club – First Group
13th 9.10am Harvest Assembly
16th PARENT CONSULTATION WEEK
20th 9.10am Celebration Assembly
23rd-27th HALF TERM
30th All Pupils Return

November 2023

29th Flu Vaccination Programme – Reception to Year 6

December 2023

7th 2.15pm Pre-School and Rainbow Class Nativity
11th CHRISTMAS JUMPER WEEK
12th 2pm KS1 Nativity
12th 5pm KS1 Nativity
13th Christmas Lunch
13th 5pm KS2 Carol Concert
15th LAST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM

January 2024

2nd NON-PUPIL DAY
3rd ALL PUPILS RETURN

February 2024

12th-16th HALF-TERM

April 2024

15th NON-PUPIL DAY
16th All Pupils Return

July 2024

23rd LAST DAY OF SUMMER TERM

BACK TO SCHOOL
2023-24 School Year



Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary; emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

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CENSORED

FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Upcombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VC247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



Source: <https://hpal.app/about/privacy.html>

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

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